

REMARKS**I. Claim Amendments**

Claims 12-17 have been cancelled, and method claims 21-23 have been rewritten in independent format to include the limitations as set forth in claim 12 (as requested by the Examiner in the Final Action, at page 5).

The aforesaid amendments do not add any new matter.

II. Rejection of Claims 12-15 and 17, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 12-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Horn et al., EP 420064.

Applicants submit that the cancellation of claims 12-17 and rewriting claims 21-23 incorporating the limitations of claim 12, renders moot the basis for the rejection. Therefore, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Rejection of Claims 12-17, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al., WO 00/51970.

Applicants submit that the cancellation of claims 12-17 and rewriting claims 21-23 incorporating the limitations of claim 12, renders moot the basis for the rejection. Therefore, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Final Action of record and that the present application is in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections set forth in the Final Action, be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required and any additional fees that may be needed to Deposit Account No. 18-1982 in the name of Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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